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THE CANADIAN SHELTERBELT PROGRAM

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More than 30 years ago the Canadian Government started a program to encourage and furnish assistance in tree planting in the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Recently the Dominion Department of Agriculture issued a brief bulletin summarizing the work to date. Excerpts from it follow:

"The object in establishing the Tree Planting Division was to encourage the planting of trees and shelterbelts on the farms of the Prairie Provinces. During the earlier years of settlement little or nothing was known of tree planting under prairie conditions and the general impression then obtained that trees could not be satisfactorily grown on these prairies. However, it was realized by the Government that the absence of trees and shelter on the average farm amounted to a very serious handicap and tended to have an unbalancing effect on farm life. Competent observers had come to the conclusion that certain varieties of trees, if handled under approved methods, could be grown in almost every section of the prairies provided farmers were educated as to the proper manner of caring for them. It was thought that the best way in which the desired result could be accomplished would be to furnish on a comparatively large scale small plants of the varieties most likely to succeed with close supervision and instruction covering the preparation of the soil, planting and subsequent care and cultivation.

"The material for the earliest plantations was secured from commercial nurseries, but as the demand increased it was quite evident that sufficient stock could not be obtained from this source. A nursery station at Indian Head was therefore established in 1903 and as the demand still continued to increase another nursery station was opened at Sutherland, Saskatchewan, in 1914. Between the years 1901 and 1930 inclusive the stock distributed from the two nursery stations amounted to a total of 117,003,000 seedlings and cuttings.

"Since 1930 agriculture in the Prairie Provinces has been suffering from the most severe setbacks in the history of the West, due chiefly to drought, but greatly aggravated by other factors such as grasshopper infestations, soil drifting, and rust. Naturally trees as well as other growing plants have been very seriously influenced by these conditions.

"During these drought years the value and effectiveness of well planned and maintained shelterbelts has been more clearly demonstrated than at any time since the inception of the tree-planting work.

"In many areas there have been complete or almost complete crop failures for five or six successive seasons. Under such conditions it can be readily realized that a home-grown supply of vegetables and fruits, which is made possible even under very adverse conditions when gardens are well protected by shelterbelts, is of enormous value to the local farm families.

"A considerable area on the nursery station at Indian Head was set out in permanent plantations, using different varieties and in different mixtures. The individual plantations vary in size from one-quarter acre to four acres. These plantations were set out during the period from 1904 and 1913, altogether approximately ninety acres. The object was to secure definite information as to the best mixtures, time required to establish the plantations, permanence, rate of growth and comparative yield of wood material. Both deciduous and coniferous species were used, either in mixture or pure plantings. The original spacing in all these plantings was 3 feet 6 inches by 4 feet. The planting was done in plough furrows, and cultivation and hoeing was kept up until the growth was sufficiently dense to control weed growth. It was found that in the case of deciduous species cultivation was necessary for from three to four years. In the evergreen plantations, where growth is slower in the early years, cultivation had to be carried on for from five to six years. After that the plantations were left to take care of themselves until such time as the trees became too crowded, usually after about fifteen years' growth, when a first thinning was made. Subsequent thinnings are made periodically at approximately five-year intervals. Careful record is kept of all such thinnings, which may be useful for pickets, fence posts, poles, or cordwood.

"A number of organizations known as Agricultural Improvement Associations have been formed in the drought areas, the members of which associations are now given special assistance in planting belts of trees around their building sites and gardens. Assistance is provided by furnishing free planting material, express charges prepaid, and an allowance on a basis of \$3.50 per thousand trees to cover the cost of planting. So far as possible expert advice is offered by our tree planting supervisors, who personally visit those wishing to plant, on preparation of the soil, arrangement of the belts and cultural methods. These inspections are followed up to insure as far as possible that instructions are carried out.

"In 1936 there were 224 plantations set out, for which 229,380 seedlings were provided. In spite of the very dry season the percentage of survival was very high, averaging between 85 percent and 90 percent. In 1937 there will be made 417 additional plantings requiring 476,500 young trees.

"To determine if possible the economic and practical value of field crop shelters it was decided to start a few small experimental projects where groups of farmers would agree to subdivide their farms with suitable hedges and shelterbelts with the object of controlling soil drift and damage from high winds and to retain more of the winter snowfall on the land. Four such projects have been approved. The areas in each are small compact blocks including from 40 to 60 sections.

"As this is entirely an experimental project, the results of which cannot be determined for some years, the assistance given is on a higher scale than that offered to members of Agricultural Improvement Associations. In addition to the provision of planting material and an allowance of \$3.50 per thousand for planting, an additional sum of \$20 per mile is granted each year for cultivation and maintenance, which includes the replanting of any blanks or failures as may be required."

The report says that between 1901 and 1935 a total of 145,163,400 seedlings and cuttings have been distributed from the nursery stations to 55,755 farms. These apparently were mostly used in farmstead windbreaks, but the report says that of recent years there has been a growing interest in the planting of field shelterbelts to lessen the effect of soil drifting and of the strong summer winds. The very close spacing used in the experimental plantations is interesting, especially in view of the continued health and very excellent growth recorded. The following examples are typical of those reported upon:

"Plantation No. 2.--Area three-quarters of an acre, planted in 1906. Scotch pine and white spruce planted in alternate rows, spaced 4 feet by 3 feet 6 inches. Cultivation and hoeing was carried on for six years.

First thinning in 1925 produced $4\frac{1}{2}$ cords of good fuel; second thinning in 1936 produced $3\frac{1}{2}$ cords of good fuel.

In this plantation the Scotch pine outgrew the spruce, which, except in a few cases, became suppressed. About 40 percent of the original trees have been cut out in these two thinnings but the remaining trees are in good condition and the stand is dense enough to afford excellent shelter. The trees are now from 30 to 40 feet in height and many measure up to 9 inches diameter at $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above ground level.

"Plantation No. 22.--Area two acres. Planted 1908. Scotch pine and green ash. Spaced 4 feet by 3 feet 6 inches, planted in alternate rows.

The ash was used for a filler and with the hope that it would produce a good ground cover.

Cultivation was continued up to and including 1912. No further work was done in this plantation until late in 1926, when a thinning produced 3-3/4 cords of Scotch pine; 1930, when a thinning produced $1\frac{1}{2}$ cords of Scotch pine; and 1936, when a thinning produced $3\frac{1}{4}$ cords of Scotch pine.

This is now one of the best plantations on the nursery. The ground cover is complete and free from grass and weeds. The Scotch pine averages 35 feet in height and 6 to 7 inches diameter at breast height. The ash form a lower story and keep the soil completely shaded."

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

BURTON "GETS 'EM"

S. S. (Barb Wire) Burton reports a successful field trip to the Nebraska Unit; in fact, he found two additional specimens of wire to add to his collection.

- Nebraska.

NOT ALL BRIGHT IDEAS WORK

Two rather prominent men from a small Kansas town -- an ex-mayor and an ex-councilman -- undoubtedly can qualify as experts on the costs of tree planting and, according to their cost records, the rate for young cedars should be more than \$4 a tree. There is nothing wrong with their computations, but by now the pair probably suspects that their procurement division could stand an overhauling.

These two fellows from Russell County drove into Barton County one day, and spied some mighty likely looking cedar trees which only recently had been planted in a new shelterbelt. They helped themselves, and soon were on their way homeward with 20 nice young cedar trees and visions of their yards all landscaped with fine trees, and with bad luck riding on the rear bumper.

The farmer on whose land the shelterbelt was planted had told District Officer Griswold and me that he intended to keep close guard over the trees -- against both four-legged and two-legged pests -- and he was right on the job. He watched the men take the trees, got their automobile license number, hied himself to town and looked up Griswold and, being properly instructed, preferred charges against the men.

Then the Barton County sheriff took a ride to visit the Russell County sheriff, returning with the two cedar-lovers in his car. They were introduced then to the Justice of the Peace.

The fine, court costs, mileage for the sheriff and mileage for the farmer added up to \$41.50 for each man, or \$83, which figures out to be \$4.15 for each tree, not to mention the embarrassment at the breakdown of their procurement division.

And that's not all! The farmer wanted the trees replaced, so the tree-lovers had to make an open-market purchase to get 20 more cedar trees and then had to plant them in that self-same shelterbelt.

- Glenn W. Spring, Kans.

FORGE FASHIONED FROM SCRAP IRON

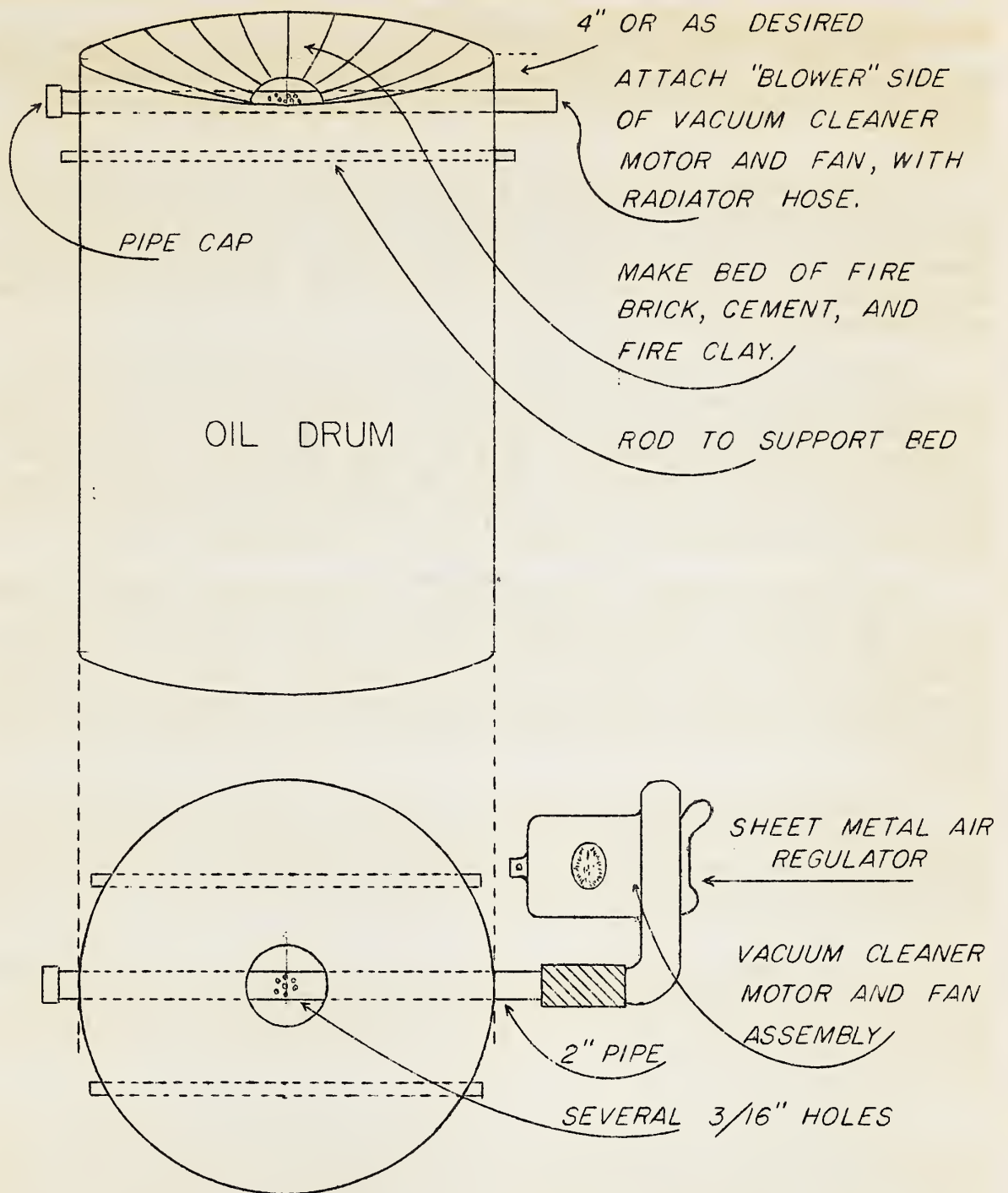
I have found the scrap iron and iron rods which accumulate at a dump very satisfactory material for portions of equipment, repairs on equipment, etc., but a forge is needed.

A satisfactory forge can be made from an old oil or grease drum, preferably about 30-gallon size. Punch two 2-inch holes opposite each other about 4 inches from the top, and insert a 2-inch pipe which is plugged at one end and at the middle has holes drilled on the top side only to form the blower outlet under the fire. Iron rods are spaced on each side about 2 inches lower to support the bed which is built up of fire brick, cement and fire clay.

For a blower, an old vacuum sweeper motor can be fitted with radiator hose on the outlet and connected to the 2-inch pipe fitted in the drum. It is necessary to fit a damper - using a flat piece of tin and one short stove bolt - over the inlet to regulate the air going to the fire and controlling the heat.

Improvements on this will doubtless occur to everyone, but for a simple, cheap and satisfactory forge it is adequate.

- L. D. Hansen, N.Dak.



FORGE WITH ELECTRIC BLOWER

—Made from discarded material

SUBMITTED BY L.D. HANSEN,

N. DAKOTA

AIDS (OTHER THAN "FIRST") FOR THE INSPECTOR

Last year, Oklahoma adopted a card system for making inspection notes, and the scheme has gone far toward transforming an audit of field unit offices from a somewhat dreaded assignment to a job which can be taken in stride.

A 3x5 promise card box with guides and cards of the same size are used, separate guides being made for each major heading and sub-heading in the standard audit and inspection outline. Then, as the inspection progresses, notes are made on cards as needed, with no necessity to jump from page to page in an attempt to group the notes as is the case when regular notebook paper is used.

There is no particular point in arranging cards under the proper headings, since it can be done easily at the conclusion of the inspection. This done, the notes are in proper sequence for the inspector to undertake a discussion with the district or nursery office personnel of the points developed during the inspection. Later the inspection report may be dictated quickly, since the inspector merely proceeds from one card to the next, and when it is finished he is assured that the arrangement is correct.

The great advantage of the system is its flexibility, which is true of any card system. Some such system may be in use in the other States, but so far as we have learned Oklahoma is the first to adopt it and after a thorough trial we are convinced of its superiority. The plan, of course, is workable on any other type of inspection and offers the same possibilities for Operation and Timber Management inspectors as for auditors from Fiscal Control.

Oklahoma also adopted a device to speed up writing the inspection report, which in the past was not done until the inspector returned to his official station where ordinarily he found an accumulation of other work that demanded his attention. Frequent interruptions also added to the difficulty of completing the report.

On our last inspection, a State Office dictaphone was taken to the field and the inspector dictated the report currently in his hotel room while the points were fresh in his mind. Since there were no interruptions or other work to distract him, the inspector completed his report on the day following the close of the inspection.

The report off his mind, the inspector returned to his regular office work with a feeling of satisfaction, while the report was of greater value because it was completed so soon after the inspection. This could be hurried up even more if dictaphone cylinders were mailed back to the office as they were used, so that the report would be typewritten in rough draft, at least, upon the inspector's return to the office. The cost of a dictaphone carrying case, \$10, is small when considered in the light of the benefits derived from its use.

- B. O. Young, Okla.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPONSORS "BETTER SHELTERBELTS" CONTEST

The Meade (Kansas) Chamber of Commerce has announced the appropriation of \$85 in cash money for prizes for the best shelterbelts in the county, and

the announcement of the contest was published in the Meade County Press on April 6. Number One shelterbelt is to bring a \$50 award (not to be sneezed at), the second prize will be \$25, and third-place winner will get \$10.

Donald P. Duncan, shelterbelt assistant at Meade, has assisted in arrangements for the competition, and has helped to prepare a comprehensive score card to govern the judging. Scoring will be divided into two sections, the announcement giving the ratings on the various points in the care of trees and those dealing with the results shown by rate of survival and rate of growth.

The ratings set up for the care of the trees are: Cultivation throughout the year as it is needed, 25 points; shelterbelt completely fenced by June 30, 15 points; placing rabbit poison as needed or substituting regular hunting to protect the trees, 10 points; placing shingles to the south or southwest of all trees in the coniferous row, 5 points; cleaning of fence rows as often as needed, 5 points; irrigation of trees or other extra attention given, 5 points.

The scoring on results at the close of the season will be as follows: Survival -- 50 to 64 percent, 5 points; 65 to 79 percent, 10 points; 80 to 94 percent, 15 points, and 95 to 100 percent, 20 points. Fair average growth, 5 points; good average growth, 10 points; excellent average growth, 15 points.

There will also be an additional 5 points awarded for each quarter-mile of shelterbelt over a half-mile minimum.

The contest will close October 15, and the results will be announced as soon thereafter as judging can be completed.

There is a refreshing note to this sort of cooperation by the Chamber of Commerce, for the interest does not stop with the completion of negotiations and planting. It follows right through to the results -- the establishment of the shelterbelts, and provides the spirit of competition which augurs good success for the trees planted in Meade County.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

WHO'S WHO IN KANSAS

Helen Frisch got in full time last month in the Kansas Office, but she had to do a little overtime work to win first place in the State piano contest at Winfield. The contest was sponsored by the Kansas branch of the National Federation of Women's Music Clubs. Each was required to play four classical selections which were the works of American composers. By winning first in the 18-to-23-year-old student class, Helen becomes Kansas' representative in the interstate contest to be held at Fort Smith late this month.

The Kansas personnel extend congratulations to Helen for her splendid showing, and wish her success again when she represents Kansas in competition with Missouri and Arkansas. Nothing short of wrecking the piano should prevent another win.

- W. G. Baxter, Kans.

"ROOSIANS" CAN STAND SOME HEAT

The limited amount of fermentation and heating of "Roosian" olive seed which O. M. Patten describes in March PLAINS FORESTER was probably highly beneficial to the seed and he should look forward to a bumper crop.

The sugars and fruit acids present in the pulp of both Russian olive and hackberry seed provide good food for fermentation, which can start at a temperature of 40 degrees F. or slightly above and proceeds slowly if the material is held at that temperature. When, however, seed is stored in quantity the heat produced by the fermentation accumulates and raises the temperature, which in turn accelerates the rate of fermentation making more heat, etc., until the lot is really "going to town." I have had lots of Russian olive berries in as small a quantity as a two-bushel box which held temperatures of 90 to 110 degrees for over three weeks. This extreme heat killed nearly all of the seed.

A limited amount of fermentation is beneficial to seed. Even in the case of mulberry, a couple of days' fermentation of the freshly collected fruits doubled the percentage of viable seeds. Harder coated seeds such as chokecherry, hackberry and Russian olive show consistent gains in viability from fermentation at a moderate rate supported by room temperature.

Limiting the fermentation of stratified seed such as Russian olive can be accomplished by depulping and thoroughly washing the seed. Enough juice and particles of pulp will cling to the seed to set up mild fermentation. Occasionally it will be enough to warm the seed slightly for a few days or a week early in the storage period; and this is the extent of fermentation which shows decided gains in viability and rapid germination of the seeds when sown. The depulping of hackberry seed is even more important, because if whole berries are stratified the pulp is so rich in sugar that fermentation is violent when it once starts. On the other hand, several years when we handled them so they did not ferment at all, they showed zero germination at the end of the stratification period. In this species, fermentation seems to play some vital part in the after-ripening process.

The difference between the temperature of the air and of the seed after the first heating, described by Patten, was probably due to ground heat. It will surprise many to know what this amounts to. At Fremont (Nebraska), the regular insulated refrigerator room of an old creamery was used. The room was about half below the ground level, the walls and ceiling cork insulated and the floor concrete laid on the earth. When seed was piled 15 to 20 inches deep on the concrete floor the seed temperature remained at about 50 degrees although air temperature was 35 to 40 degrees. We then used ice cans, such as are used for freezing 350-pound ice cakes, as seed containers and the seed remained at room temperature. The influx of heat from the earth through the concrete floor was such that an electric fan had to be used all winter to pull in cold air from the outside, and when the weather got warm outside, 300 pounds of ice were used daily in the refrigerator room with all vents closed.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

(Editor's Note:--This report by Mr. Taylor has been briefed from a longer and more detailed discussion. The full report is on file in the Regional Office.)

MAKING SHELTERBELT TREES PAY BIG DIVIDENDS

George R. Phillips, Washington Office, supplies another string for the shelterbelt bow in the form of the following quotation from a California Extension Service statement regarding the value of tree windbreaks to citrus and avocado groves. The statement was originally made by Mr. Wahlberg, Farm Adviser in Orange County:

"Mr. Wahlberg gives a table of returns on 20 protected groves and 20 unprotected groves for 1936. The average per acre returns on the protected groves was \$445.48; and on the unprotected groves, \$271.34. This means that a grower could take out one acre of trees on a ten-acre piece for windbreak purposes and get \$1,295.92 more for his nine protected acres than he could for the 10 acres unprotected.

"Mr. Wahlberg gives details of planting practices for windbreaks, and varieties best adapted for this section, and information as to care and cultivation. He also suggests, 'A community project with a windbreak on every 10 acres will be the most practical solution to maintaining an economic and permanent citrus or avocado industry in those districts that are periodically wind-beaten and experience serious financial losses therefrom.'"

Here is the perfect answer to the Plains farmer who contends that he "cannot afford to devote good cropland to shelterbelts."

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO ORDER SOME ORDER BLANKS

Brief, and to the point! This Texan knows what he wants, and makes his request succinctly in the following letter received by the Texas Unit:

"Gents: I Desire few Hundred Forest Seedlings for use as windbreaks on Farm Here. Please send list available and Order Blank at once. Respcty, Oscar Peterson, Higgins, Tex. Box 203."

- Texas.

JUNK IT!

Junk something every day. Junk your worries, junk your fears, junk your anxieties, junk your little jealousies, envies and hatreds. Whatever interferes with your getting up and getting on in the world -- junk it. Every night before you go to sleep put in the junk heap all your disappointments, all your grudges, your revengeful feelings, your malice -- junk everything that is hindering you from being a big strong, fine character. The great trouble with most of us is that we haven't any junk heap of this sort. We pull all our mental enemies, all our handicaps, our discouragements, our losses, our misfortunes, worries, and trials along with us. That eats up more than 50 percent of our vitality and energy, so that we have only the smaller amount left for the great achievement of making life a success.

- Intermountain Region Daily News.

NORTH DAKOTA RABBITS FEWER BY 20,000

More than 822,000 acres were covered in organized rabbit drives in North Dakota in December, January, February and March, nearly two-thirds of the work being done in the first two months, the North Dakota Unit reports. The 20,592 rabbits killed (actual count) were three-quarters of the estimated rabbit population in the territory before the drives were staged. A total of 6,362 man-days was devoted to rabbit hunts, 4,226 man-days in December and January. Cooperation was slightly under 50 percent in man-days, but much above the half-and-half ratio in transportation and shells furnished.

The North Dakota Unit has prepared an interesting map which shows in color the territories where rabbit drives were held and the months, together with statistical information. Although two-thirds of the acreage was covered by hunters in December and January, nearly three-fourths of the total kill occurred during that period. Similarly, marksmanship was a little better in those earlier months, averaging a little less than three shells per rabbit killed in the first two months, and 3-1/3 shells per rabbit in the second two months.

"It is to be understood that most of our rabbit damage occurred during the first part of the winter before our rabbit drives really got under way," the North Dakota report says. "As a result, we have had the usual amounts of rabbit damage this winter. Therefore, observations as to the effectiveness of planned rabbit drives will have to wait until the next season when we receive rabbit damage which, in this State, is the last part of fall and the early part of winter.

"We are going to be in a position to make a rather close check, especially in the New Rockford District, as this District was successful in blocking off about six townships which were entirely covered by organized rabbit drives and some of them twice."

SHELTERBELTS AND BANKS -- THEY'RE ALIKE

One of the greatest tributes to be paid to the field shelterbelt idea is found in the following advertisement which was run in the St. John (Kansas) Daily Capital by the First National Bank:

SHELTERBELTS GIVE PROTECTION

"Shelterbelts give protection from conditions that lay waste to lands. At times of the year when green life is young and growing these trees protect the fields.

"We like to think of our bank in that same way -- always ready to give aid and protection when it is most needed. Every business experiences times in its progress when financial aid will insure the future.

"We are always ready to advise and help when matters of finance present themselves."

The advertisement was two columns wide and six inches deep, so that the device of a large heading and plenty of white space could be used effectively to gain reader attention.

- Glenn W. Spring, Kans.

ADD TO UNSUSPECTED QUALITIES

Unsuspected qualifications of Project employees worm their way into the sun from time to time, despite the employee's reticence, and nothing can be done about it. For instance, the following from the Fremont (Nobr.) Morning Guide:

"The Rev. M. K. Meines, manager of the Prairie States Shelter-belt Project here, announced last night that his project will be unable to provide trees for the forthcoming tree-planting program sponsored by Fremont groups."

No fair keeping secrets, Red. We knew your experience extended into many fields, but we never would have suspected any such ecclesiastical connections.

And then, of all things, State Director Al Ford of South Dakota seems to be losing his characteristic forcefulness. An editorial in the Aberdeen (South Dakota) Morning American says:

"More trees in South Dakota never have nor never will hurt anybody, A. L. Ford, state director of the federal forest service, points out in urging every property owner in the state to observe Arbor Day this spring by setting out more trees.

"He is right in his contention but he should be more positive. . . ."

Needless to say, such evidences of "softening" among our erstwhile lightning-defying crusaders leaves us flabbergasted -- not to mention all of a twitter.

- H. J. Swan, R.O.

THE CHINESE ELM AT HOME

The Chinese elm, oftentimes called by survival counters "rabbits' candy," and known as an upstanding member of the field shelterbelt family, has not always been the tall, good-looking fellow that Americans know, according to John S. Thompson, extension forester in North Dakota Farm Forestry Facts.

Thompson quotes P. H. Dorsett, agricultural explorer, for most of the information. Dorsett says that the Chinese, or dry land, elm is one of the most drought and cold resistant of any species, is the most generally liked and planted for shade and ornamental purposes, and apparently is the only hedge plant the Manchurians know.

The explorer found the Chinese elm popular in the municipal parks as an inconspicuous flowering shrub for border plantings, and for ornamental plantings where the trees are pruned to globular and pyramidal forms. He has seen Chinese elm hedges ranging from 13 inches to 80 or 10 feet high, and instances of trees 12 or more feet tall being cut back to within 2 or 3 feet from the ground.

Apparently the Chinese elm as a tall, symmetrical tree is virtually unknown in Manchuria.

The North Dakota forester concludes with the observation that although the Chinese elm has grown well in North Dakota, it has faults which should be considered before it is selected in preference to some other species. The faults are: Rabbit damage is greater on Chinese elm than any other tree species planted in North Dakota; Chinese elm is very brittle and consequently very susceptible to wind damage, and winter killing is quite common in some parts of the State.

WE ARE "CRACKED DOWN" ON

General Hugh S. Johnson, late of NRA, views the shelterbelt planting program with a little less than complete approbation, according to one of his recent syndicated articles. Quoth the General:

"I recall that his (President Roosevelt's) solution of the farm problem in 1932, advocated also by Mr. Morgenthau, was to plant a belt of trees across the Middle West. That had been urged ever since I was a little boy. Over and over again it had been proved impracticable because trees do not reach the water tables in those latitudes. Many of us Westerners told him - but it didn't click."

To a man up a shelterbelt tree it will likely seem that the good General plunged in a little beyond his depth as to history, silviculture, and geography. If anything has been proved in connection with tree planting - even "in these latitudes" - during the period since General Johnson was a little boy, it is that they grow very readily under proper care, whether or not they "reach the water tables." As for furnishing a "solution of the farm problem," presumably that problem is not confined to the rather narrow strip of country which can be benefited by tree windbreaks, but in that area there are a good many thousands of farmers who are pinning their hopes for economic salvation on getting such windbreaks established before they are literally blown out of the country.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

RABBIT POISONING GAINS FAVOR

Farmers in the Nebraska shelterbelt planting areas have been encouraged this winter by the results obtained with poison bait for rabbits, and as a result activity by cooperators showed an increase. A mixture of strychnine and alfalfa meal, with salt for seasoning, was fed steadily on 13,000 acres of Nebraska shelterbelts. Personal contacts and the use of circular letters were the media for disseminating information about the results of the rodent control program.

Of course, hunting was not neglected and crews were kept busy at this. The crew in the O'Neill subdistrict set the pace for other hunters with a record of 391 rabbits for one case of 500 shells. Art (Bloolie Looie) McClure claims several perfect score days -- a rabbit for every shot -- but up to now he hasn't succeeded in lining up the bunnies so he can shoot two at once.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

WEDDING BELLS RING AGAIN

Junior Clerk Stenographer Roland C. Fry expressed his confidence in his ability and in the continuation of the project by taking unto himself a wife on March 18, less than a month after his appointment. Greetings, Mrs. Fry; may your union be long, useful, and happy.

- A. N. Butler, Okla.

CULTIVATION IS THE THING WHEN CONFEREES MEET

Cultivation of shelterbelts was the topic of two conferences in Oklahoma, one March 31 at Carnegie and one on April 1 at Elk City. Henry Lobenstein represented the Regional Office, contributing many suggestions in connection with the wide range of topics discussed. State Director Nelson outlined the purposes of each meeting to start the ball rolling, and from there the other State Office and District men took over.

It is the consensus of the Oklahoma Unit that much more satisfactory cultivation on all plantations, especially the new ones, may be expected as a result of the conferences.

- Max Pfaender, Okla.

IT'S TRUE

The greatest sin, fear; the biggest fool, the boy who will not go to school; the most agreeable companion, one who would not have you any different than what you are; the great bore, one who will not come to the point; a still greater bore, one who keeps on talking after he has made his point; the greatest deceiver, one who deceives himself.

The greatest invention of the devil, war; the greatest secret of production, saving waste; the best work, what you like; the best play, work; the greatest comfort, the knowledge that you have done your work well; the greatest mistake, giving up; the most expensive indulgence, hate; the cheapest, stupidest and easiest thing to do, finding fault; the greatest trouble maker, one who talks too much; the greatest stumbling block, egotism; the most ridiculous asset, pride; the worst bankrupt, the soul that has lost its enthusiasm.

The cleverest man, one who always does what he thinks is right; the most dangerous person, the liar; the best teacher, one who makes you want to learn; the meanest feeling of which any human being is capable, feeling bad at another's success; the greatest need, common sense; the greatest puzzle, life; the greatest mystery, death; the greatest thought, God; the greatest thing, bar none, in the world, love.

- Intermountain Region Daily News.

OKLAHOMA HOLDS ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE

On April 21 and 22 I attended a meeting in Oklahoma City of most of the Unit's personnel. Everyone was assigned some topic to discuss, and I do not know when I have ever become more absorbed in a conference.

Two things struck me with particular force. One of them is the high type of men we have somehow been able to wangle for our subdistrict jobs; without exception they exhibited good poise, clear thinking, tactful generalship, and ability to soak up ideas. If Oklahoma is representative of the Project as a whole, and presumably it is, since the men were more or less drawn out of a hat, we are raising a first-class crop of administrators on this Project.

The other thing is the fact - lamentably true everywhere in greater or less degree - that a great many good ideas of State and Project-wide value never get beyond the confines of individual administrative units. How to dig this stuff out for distribution is a problem, but inspectors, from District Officers to the Director, can do the Project no greater service than to be on the lookout for them for the express purpose of passing them on.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Two new subdistrict officers have reported for duty in North Dakota. They are John Nordberg at Devils Lake, and John P. Jeffers at Jamestown.

Automotive repair shops have been established in South Dakota and Kansas and automotive mechanics have been appointed to assume charge of them. The new appointees are Foster W. Bartholow at Huron, and John W. England at St. John.

Shelterbelt Assistant Ivan C. Decker has transferred from Carnegie, Oklahoma, to assume charge of the Hecla subdistrict in South Dakota.

Nurseryman Irving W. Krieger of South Dakota has been assigned to the Norfolk Nursery in Nebraska, and William B. Moffet of Nebraska succeeds Mr. Krieger at the Farm Island Nursery in South Dakota. Nurseryman Lester D. Martelle has assumed charge of the newly established nursery at South Sioux City, Nebraska.

Junior Clerk-Stenographer E. Wade Blake has moved from the Vernon, Texas, office to the State Office at Wichita Falls.

- Operation, R.O.

- R.O. GOSSIP -

FINIS. The two R.O. girls' teams finished their last half-season bowling match this week. The team captained by Naser won over Peterson's fierce foursome by the scant skin of their teeth, the game score up to the last evening's play being tied. Naser's team succeeded in snatching two games and thus are entitled to a party given by the losers. However, we heard some grumbling that Peterson's team is getting a bit tired of buying chicken dinners, having also lost last fall's session by a mere 7-10 split or two. So they say they will provide mill and crackers if the winners will bring their own cheese.

While averages probably aren't top-rank fodder, they aren't bad for non-pros. Naser tossed a couple of 200's, and ended the season with an average of 140. After the pins began to get wobbly at the end of the season, Clark managed to wangle some 190's, averaging 142. Morey and Peterson occasionally hit in the 180's, averaging 127 and 133 respectively. Other averages are Nobles 134, Stamper, 142, Dundis 135.

(Please note we are refraining from publicizing results of the girls vs. men match earlier this spring. Draw your own conclusions.)

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CONGRATULATIONS. We've seen Danny Cupid loitering around the halls between Operation and Fiscal Control for a long time now, and just when we turn our backs and aren't looking, socko, a bull's eye! All of which is to say that Loretta Nobles (Operation) aided and abetted by Elmer Hurren (Fiscal) is displaying a beautiful engagement ring. Loretta, coy as usual, is a bit evasive about dates and things, but keep your eye on this column and we'll let you know "when." (Attention, ex-Shelterbelter Ray Ward, R-10: Loretta thinks you'll be pleased about this; as a match-maker you have her OK.)

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State Directors Nelson (Oklahoma) and Webb (Texas) spent several days in the Regional Office the week of April 17.

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.